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THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

Letter dated 14 July 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine concerning the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in particular in and around the safe area of Srebrenica (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 28 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Boris HUDYMA
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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ANNEX

[Original: Russian]

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine
dated 13 July 1995

Despite all attempts by the international community to stop the escalation of the conflict in Bosnia, the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina has entered an explosive phase that threatens to spill over into open confrontation between the warring sides and the United Nations peace-keeping forces.

Ignoring all appeals by the United Nations Security Council, the Bosnian Serbs have seized the Muslim enclave of Srebrenica, which is under the protection of a Netherlands peace-keeping contingent. There has been significant loss of life among the civilian population of Srebrenica, one Netherlands serviceman has died and several have been wounded. Some of the peace-keepers have been taken hostage. In response to these operations the United Nations has been obliged to request air support from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in order to protect peace-keeping personnel.

Ukraine, which is directly involved in the United Nations peace-keeping operation in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, has repeatedly warned the parties to the conflict of the futility of using strong-arm methods to resolve it; such methods risk unleashing war on a large scale with unpredictable consequences for the entire Balkan region.

The Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs urges the Bosnian Serbs to withdraw their forces from the "safe area" of Srebrenica and to immediately and unconditionally release all the peace-keepers they have taken prisoner; it also demands that all parties to the conflict respect the status of United Nations peace-keeping personnel and cease all hostile acts against them.

While stressing the need to continue looking for a means of finding a political settlement to the Bosnian crisis, Ukraine reaffirms its willingness to act as a mediator between the parties to the conflict with a view to finding a formula for reconciliation and restoring peace to this long-suffering region.